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Prologue

A silver cat lay before the Moonpool her face reflected in its starry water. She didn't know why she had come here. But she was troubled and instinct had brought her here, even if she wasn't a medicine cat. Sighing the silver cat touched her nose to the icy water and all at once the world she knew faded away. When she opened her eyes mist surrounded her. Starlit trees began to form. A black and white Tom appeared from the trees nodding to her in greeting.
"What brings you here Silverstar?" The black and white Tom asked.
Silverstar faced the Tom. He had been Thunderclan's medicine cat until a few days ago. The clan still grieved.
"I feel troubled Patchtail," Silverstar answered. "I do not know why but I feel as if something bad is going to happen,"
Patchtail watched her closely. Silverstar shrunk back surprised by the intensity of his gaze. A faraway look came to the former medicine cat's eyes.
"River, Shadow, Wind, Thunder, all shall fall in the spotted cat's demise," Patchtail growled.
Silverstar bristled. "Patchtail? What? Is this a prophecy?"
The black and white Tom's eyes lit up in panic before a serious look came over him.
"Be careful Silverstar," he meowed.
As he spoke the mist faded and Silverstar found herself waking up at the Moonpool. Next to her a dark tabby she-cat sat bristling.
"Silverstar!" The she-cat cried out. "Why are you here? It doesn't matter! Poppy flower is having her kits!"
Silverstar stood up and the two she-cats raced back to camp.

Allegiances

THUNDERCLAN

LEADER: Silverstar- silver she-cat with blue eyes

DEPUTY: Deerleg- mottled pale brown Tom with long legs

MEDICINE CAT: Mothwillow- pretty tawny she-cat with yellow eyes

WARRIORS:

Rainheart- dark tabby she-cat with Amber eyes

Foxfur- reddish brown tabby Tom with yellow eyes

Robinflight- sleek black she-cat with white spots

Oakfoot- ginger tortoiseshell Tom

Moonpelt- speckled grey she-cat
Apprentice: Fernpaw

Finchwing- brown Tom with ginger patches

Sagehaze- golden dappled she-cat
Apprentice: Adderpaw

Mouseclaw- dark grey Tom

APPRENTICES:

Fernpaw- silver tabby she-cat with yellow eyes

Adderpaw- brown Tom with white tabby stripes

Leaf- orange and white she-cat with Amber eyes

QUEENS:

Poppyflower- spotted black she-cat with green eyes
Mother to Foxfur's kit: Spottedkit- orange brown she-kit with black spots and brown eyes

Pebbletail- sandy coloured she-cat

ELDERS:

Gorsefeather- dark brown Tom with a long tail and yellow eyes

Redwhisker- red Tom with sightless blue eyes

Flickerstorm- dark ginger she-cat

SHADOWCLAN

LEADER: Flystar- orange tabby Tom

DEPUTY: Boltstrike- speckled yellow Tom

MEDICINE CAT: Greeneyes- grey mottled she-cat with green eyes
Hawkpaw- golden spotted Tom

WINDCLAN

LEADER: Fallenstar- wiry grey tortoiseshell she-cat with blue eyes

DEPUTY: Dawnsky- midnight black tabby she-cat

MEDICINE CAT: Shimmerspark- blue grey she-cat
Apprentice: Hollytuft- mottled ginger she-cat

RIVERCLAN

LEADER: Lizardstar- dark grey Tom with black specks

DEPUTY: Sedgecreek- pale grey she-cat

MEDICINE CAT: Whitefang- fluffy white Tom
Apprentice: Tealscale- tawny tabby she-cat

Chapter 1

Paws crunched on snow. Jaws chewed on prey. Claws sharpened on trees. Thunderclan was at peace. Spottedkit sat with her Mother watching the snow fall outside.
"It's so white!" Spottedkit whispered. "Is it always like this?"
"No," Spottedkit's spotted black Mother Poppyflower answered. "Once Leaf-bare has ended the snow will melt and it will be warm. The forest will be very green and there will lots of fresh-kill,"
"Good," Spottedkit meowed. "I'm starving!"
"Once Newleaf comes you will sleep with a full belly every day," the sandy coloured Queen Pebbletail meowed.
"You'll be an apprentice in Newleaf," Poppyfrost added.
"Two more moons," Spottedkit meowed. "Then I'll be hunting for the clan! And fighting!"
"Go find Leaf," Pebbletail meowed. "She might be able to teach you a few moves,"
Spottedkit's eyes lit up. She ran outside looking for the orange and white apprentice. Leaf's Mother was a loner who had asked Thunderclan to care for Leaf. Spottedkit remembered two moons ago when Leaf had become an apprentice but refused to to be called Leafpaw. The orange and white apprentices was grooming herself.
"Leaf!" Spottedkit called.
Leaf looked up. "Hi Spottedkit!"
"Can you teach me a battle move?" Spottedkit asked.
Adderpaw a brown Tom with white tabby stripes came out of the apprentices den and snorted.
"You're four moons old," Adderpaw hissed. "You don't need to learn any battle moves! Like you'd be able to do one anyway,"
Spottedkit faced him. "Afraid I'll be better then you?"
Adderpaw hissed. "You couldn't best a mouse!"
"Awww Adderpaw's getting grumpy," Spottedkit stuck out her tongue.
Adderpaw growled stomping away.
"Did you have to do that?" Leaf asked.
"Yes," Spottedkit answered. "He's annoying,"
Leaf smiled. "He is a pain in the tail,"

Out of the corner of her eye Spottedkit could see Silverstar watching her warily. *What's her problem?* Spottedkit wondered.

Chapter 2

Spottedkit squirmed under her Mother's tongue.
"I'm already clean!" Spottedkit complained. "Can we go now?"
"This is your apprentice ceremony Spottedkit," Poppyflower pointed out. "I want you to look perfect. And stop acting like a kit,"
"It'll start without us at this right!" Spottedkit argued.
Poppyflower sighed. "Alright. I suppose you're groomed enough. Come on,"
Spottedkit looked at her well groomed fur then followed her Mother out. The clan had already gathered. Poppyflower sat beside Pebbletail's whose belly was swollen with kits that would be born any day. Spottedkit walked towards Highledge where Silverstar stood.
"We have gathered today because Spottedkit has reached her sixth moon meaning it is time for her to become an apprentice," The Thunderclan leader began. She looked down at Spottedkit who saw a flash of fear in Silverstar's eyes. "Spottedkit from this day fourth until you earn your warrior name you shall be called Spottedpaw," Silverstar turned to the sleek black warrior with white spots, Robinflight. "Robinflight you will mentor Spottedpaw," Silverstar declared. "Train your apprentice well in the ways of the warrior code,"
"I will," Robinflight promised.
Spottedpaw touched noses with her new mentor. Thunderclan caterwauled her new name.

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Spottedpaw watched her mentor crouch down slowly creeping along the ground. Her eyes focused on the hunt. Robinflight shot forward snatching up a plump mouse in her jaws.
"Woah," Spottedpaw meowed.
"You're lucky to be learning to hunt in Newleaf," Robinflight meowed. "Prey is easy to find,"
"Or maybe I'm just that could at hunting," Spottedpaw boasted.
"You're arrogant for a cat who's never caught anything before,"

Robinflight purred. "Let's see you catch something,"
"Just watch me!" Spottedpaw meowed.
Spottedpaw sniffed the air remembering what Robinflight had done. She smelt a squirrel, it was a scent she recognised from the fresh-kill pile only this one smelt alive. Spottedpaw crept towards the scent freezing as a twig snapped. The squirrel was in sight. It froze too looking around. But to Spottedpaw's luck it didn't run. It nibbled on an acorn instead. Spottedpaw shot forward. The squirrel bolted. *No!* Spottedpaw thought. *I'm not losing a stupid squirrel!* Spottedpaw ran harder and faster and dived on top of the squirrel hooking it's tail in her claws. The squirrel tried to scamper away but Spottedpaw killed it with a bite to the neck. Robinflight joined her.
"I caught it," Spottedpaw purred. "I told you would! Told you I was a good hunter,"
Robinflight rolled her eyes. "You're confident Spottedpaw. Let's go back to camp,"
"What!" Spottedpaw complained. "But we just started training!"
"It's Sunhigh and I'm going on a patrol soon," Robinflight meowed. "Besides why don't you tell everyone at camp about your amazing catch?"
"I could fill the fresh-kill pile myself," Spottedpaw told her.
"Spottedpaw don't get all arrogant and cocky on me," Robinflight meowed.

Chapter 3

When Spottedpaw woke the sun was just beginning to rise. She remembered boasting to he clanmates about her first catch. She smirked, and Adderpaw's reaction. Spottedpaw headed out disappointed to find the fresh-kill pile empty. Spottedpaw saw her mentor lazily coming out of the warriors den and ran over to her.
"Robinflight!" Spottedpaw whispered not wanting her voice to echo in the stone hollow. "Where are you going?"
"Dawn patrol," Robinflight answered. "Shouldn't you be asleep?"
"No way!" Spottedpaw cried. "I get up early and I'll train early,"
"Unfortunately you aren't ready for a patrol yet," Robinflight meowed.
"Yes I am," Spottedpaw declared adamantly.
Robinflight sighed. "Spottedpaw if you can catch three pieces of fresh-kill by the time I come back from patrol I'll let you come next time,"
Spottedpaw puffed out her chest. "Too easy! You're talking to Thunderclan's future best hunter,"
"We shall see," Robinflight meowed walking away.
Determined Spottedpaw raced into the forest and sniffed the air. She smelt nothing. Spottedpaw bristled. She sniffed again and picked up the scent of a bird. She crouched down and stalked towards it. She managed to avoid any twigs but her pawsteps were too loud and the bird flew away. She smelt a mouse and went to find it.

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Spottedpaw sat disappointed. She'd caught nothing. Spottedpaw sat disappointed and annoyed. Then she smelt something. Mice. Several mice, and very close. Her eyes lit up and she looked around and spotted a small hole beneath the roots of a tree. Excitedly she stuck her paw in. It barely fit but she managed to scoop out four terrified mice. She killed each with a nip to the spine and purred at her

victory. Spottedpaw grabbed the mice by their tails and headed back to camp. Her heart sand seeing Robinflight had beaten her back to camp.
"You didn't beat me back to camp," Robinflight meowed. "But you did what I asked and more. Well done Spottedpaw. I'll ask Silverstar if you can go to the Gathering tomorrow,"
As they spoke the Thunderclan leader entered camp. Spottedpaw watched her mentor go over and speak to Silverstar. Silverstar look surprised but agreed. Spottedpaw silently cheered. She was going to go to a Gathering! *I can't wait to meet the clans!*

Chapter 4

Spottedpaw followed her clanmates to the Gathering. It was dark but the moon shone brightly.
"Excited?" Her Father Foxfur asked his reddish brown fur fluffed up in the cool night air.
"Yep," Spottedpaw answered. "There'll be so many cats! Can you tell me about the clans and their leaders?"
"Well there's Windclan. There leader is a grey tortoiseshell called Fallenstar. Shadowclan's leader is a orange tabby called Flystar. And Riverclan's leader is a dark grey Tom with black specks called Lizardstar," Foxfur explained.
"What are the other clans like?" Spottedpaw asked.
"You'll see when you get there," Foxfur answered.
Spottedpaw saw Leaf and ran over to her.
"Leaf what are the other clans like?" Spottedpaw asked.
Before Leaf could answer the clan stopped. Spottedpaw peered around. They'd come to a fallen log.
"Be careful when you cross," Leaf whispered. "You might fall in,"
"I'm not going to fall in!" Spottedpaw hissed.
Spottedpaw confidently jumped onto the tree bridge. It wasn't as stable as she thought but she wasn't going to back down in front of her clanmates. She walked across tail in the air. Suddenly she slipped. Spottedpaw frantically clawed the log but fell into the water. She panicked flailing about. *I can't swim!* Her lungs screamed for air as she thrashed. A dark shape swam toward her. *No! I'm not going to Starclan! I'm not done yet!* The dark shape grabbed her dragging her from the water. She sat on the shoreline coughing up water. Spottedpaw looked over at the cat who'd saved her. He had sleek dark grey fur and black specks. His blue eyes watched her.
"Spottedpaw!" Poppyflower cried. Poppyflower licked Spottedpaw's forehead. "Thank goodness you're okay!" She turned to face the strange cat. "Thank you Lizardstar! Thank you for saving my kit!"
Lizardstar?! Spottedpaw's jaw dropped. Riverclan's leader had saved her.
"No problem," Lizardstar meowed. "I couldn't watch a cat drown," he turned to Spottedpaw. "Just be more careful in the future,"

With that Riverclan's leader walked away.

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Spottedpaw sat next to Leaf. She was cold and her fur still wet but Leaf stayed close t keep her warm.
"Newleaf is being kind to Windclan," the Windclan leader Fallenstar began. "We have plenty of prey and our apprentices are training well,"
The Shadowclan leader stood on his branch. "I have no news to report but Shadowclan is strong and faring well,"
Silverstar stood next. "I would like to introduce Thunderclan's newest apprentice, Spottedpaw,"
The clans cheered her name and Spottedpaw noticed some of the Riverclan cats had amused looks. *Because I fell in the water. Way to make an impression. At least I'll be remembered.*
Lizardstar stood last. "Riverclan is happy to announce that soon Riverclan will have new kits,"
"This Gathering is over," Flystar meowed.

Chapter 5

Spottedpaw sat in Mothwillow's den. The pretty tawny medicine cat sniffed her for any sign of sickness after she'd fallen in the water last night.
"I'm fine," Spottedpaw meowed.
"Then you'll be fine with me checking," Mothwillow responded.
"You don't need to check me," Spottedpaw argued. "I should be training not stuck in here,"
"You just became an apprentice," Mothwillow meowed. "You're not going to miss anything,"
Spottedpaw huffed in annoyance. "Fernpaw, Adderpaw and Leaf are out training while I'm stuck in here! I'll be fine! If I was sick I'd be coughing or something!"
"You don't know that Spottedpaw," Mothwillow meowed. "I have to check you, Silverstar doesn't want any sick clanmates. She wants you to be healthy,"
Spottedpaw rolled her eyes. "Yeah right! Silverstar doesn't even like me. Have you seen the way she looks at me? It's like I've killed someone!"
"She does not!" Mothwillow gasped. "Don't be rude!"
"It's true!" Spottedpaw exclaimed. "Every time she looks at me she always looks scared or wary!"
Mothwillow shook her head.
"Don't believe me then," Spottedpaw hissed.
Sulkily Spottedpaw left the den. She ran out of the stone hollow and into the forest. *Stupid medicine cat! What does she know?!*
Spottedpaw hissed in annoyance. She sniffed the air for prey. She smelt a mouse and she crouched down. Spottedpaw stalked towards it. Her footsteps were loud no matter how quiet she tried to make them. She hissed in annoyance as the mouse ran off.
"Don't go slow and put all the weight on your paws," Robinflight meowed appearing suddenly. "Go faster so you can take lighter steps,"
Spottedpaw nodded. She sniffed the air again and scented a thrush. *I can do this*. Spottedpaw thought. She stalked forward following Robinflight's advice. *My pawsteps are silent!* A twig crunched and

Spottedpaw froze. *Almost silent.* Luckily the bird didn't notice. Spottedpaw shot forward hooking her claws into its wing and killing it with a nip to the spine. Her mentor smiled. "Well done Spottedpaw!"

Chapter 6

Spottedpaw sat with the dark ginger elder Flickerstorm. Redwhisker paced the Elders den his sightless blue eyes wide open as he lashed his tail. Gorsefeather the last of the three elders watched the nursery his yellow eyes narrowed. Pebbletail's kits were being born.
"Why is Redwhisker so upset?" Spottedpaw asked Flickerstorm.
The dark ginger she-cat shrugged. "He's not good with this sort of thing,"
"I can hear you!" Redwhisker hissed. "I may be blind but I'm not deaf!"
"Quit whining," Flickerstorm meowed. "Pebbletail's strong,"
"You don't know that!" Redwhisker hissed. "Anything could happen!"
"She's fine," Flickerstorm promised.
Poppyflower came out of the nursery. "Three kits! Two Toms and a she-cat all healthy,"
Foxfur entered the medicine den. "Guess your not the youngest cat anymore huh Spottedpaw?"

Sorry it's short!

Chapter 7

Two moons had passed since Pebbletail's three kits Sandkit, Lionkit and Mistykit had been born. Spottedpaw sat beneath Highledge watching Leaf and Adderpaw be made warriors. Fernpaw who was now Fernheart had become a warrior a moon ago.
"Adderpaw from this day onward you shall be known as Adderfang," Silverstar meowed. "Starclan honours your courage and confidence and we welcome you as a full warrior of Thunderclan!"
Spottedpaw reluctantly joined in. *Adderfang is still always grumpy warrior or not.*
"Leaf, I know you do not wish for a name like ours. I respect that. You may not have the name of a warrior but you are a warrior at heart and that's what's important. Starclan honours your kindness and your spirit and we welcome you as a full warrior of Thunderclan,"
As the clan cheered Spottedpaw cheered the loudest.

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"I can't believe I won't be training with you anymore," Spottedpaw meowed to her friend.
Leaf nodded. "Don't worry. In four moons you'll be a warrior. Besides we can still go on patrols together if Robinflight lets us,"
Spottedpaw sighed. "It's gonna be lonely being the only apprentice,"
"Yeah by the time Pebbletail's kits are apprentices you'll be a warrior,"
"Spottedpaw!" Robinflight called. "Patrol!"
Spottedpaw ran over to where Rainheart, Oakfoot and Finchwing were waiting.
"We are going to remark the border near Shadowclan territory," Robinflighht explained.
Spottedpaw nodded following the patrol. As they got closer to Shadowclan's border Spottedpaw wrinkled her nose at the stench. Suddenly yellow fur flashed in the trees. Spottedpaw recognised Shadowclan's deputy and four Shadowclan warriors in *Thunderclan territory.*

"Boltstrike!" Oakfoot snarled his ginger tortoiseshell fur standing on end. "This is our territory!"
"I don't care," Boltstrike snarled. "Thunderclan cats are weak! GET THEM!"
Spottedpaw was slammed into by the fluffy white she-car Whiteclaw. Spottedpaw twisted away but Whiteclaw raked her claws down Spottedpaw's side.
"An apprentice!" Whiteclaw laughed. "Too easy!"
Spottedpaw angrily sank her teeth into Whiteclaw's paw. Whiteclaw screeched with pain and fury throwing Spottedpaw off. Spottedpaw slammed into a tree and was winded. Whiteclaw slashed at Spottedpaw's muzzle. Spottedpaw reared up furiously and slashed at the white warrior. Whiteclaw snarled with fury. Spottedpaw reared up again but Whiteclaw slid underneath her then bucked like a rabbit. Spottedpaw went flying. Furiously she stood but she was weak and battered. Whiteclaw laughed.
"Awww poor little Thunderclan cat! Are all Thunderclan apprentices this weak?" Whiteclaw taunted.
Fury overtook Spottedpaw. She slashed clawed and bit Whiteclaw not stopping for a second. Her muscles ached and screamed at her to stop but she was too angry. *How dare you taunt me?!* Whiteclaw screeched.
"Enough Spottedpaw!" Rainheart yelled.
Spottedpaw stopped. Whiteclaw looked furious. Her white fur was red and her ear was torn. *Did I do that?*
"Leave Boltstrike!" Finchwing hissed.
Boltstrike snarled but he and his warriors were beaten. Spottedpaw watched them run back into their own territory.

Chapter 8

"Did you real fight Shadowclan?" Sandkit asked.
"Were they big and scary?" Mistykit asked.
"Did they hide in the shadows?" Lionkit asked.
"We fought Shadowclan all right! I sent a Shadowclan warrior running!" Spottedpaw boasted.
"We're never going to hear the end of it," Adderfang hissed annoyed.
"That's Spottedpaw for you," Moonpelt purred.
"She did fight very well though," Finchwing admitted. "So let her have her fun,"
Spottedpaw grinned happy to have been praised by the older warrior.
"I should've been there!" Mouseclaw sighed.
"There's always next time," Rainheart reminded him. "Shadowclan isn't going to change anytime soon,"
Spottedpaw turned to the kits.
"Tell us what happened again!" Mistykit begged.
Spottedpaw did telling them every detail. "Then Whiteclaw ran off knowing that I was way too strong,"
Poppyflower laughed as she passed. "Well done Spottedpaw I'm proud of you,"
"You're really lucky!" Leaf meowed. "I haven't ever been in an actual fight. I'm always hunting or busy when any border skirmishes happen and we haven't properly fought a whole clan since I've been alive,"
"Well if there ever is Thunderclan will send them running!" Spottedpaw meowed.

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Spottedpaw lay in the apprentices den watching the moon. Everyone else was asleep, unless they were on patrol. The stars shone in the sky. Spottedpaw smiled at the view. Then she heard pawsteps. Spottedpaw peeked out of the apprentices den. Silverstar headed over to the medicine den. *Is she sick?* Spottedpaw wondered. For some reason she followed the Thunderclan leader. Silverstar

went inside. Spottedpaw crouched in the shadows listening. Moments later she heard Mothwillow rise and the two cats began to speak.
"What's wrong Silverstar?" Mothwillow asked.
"There's something I need to tell you," Silverstar admitted.
"What is it?" Mothwillow asked.
"Remember the night I disappeared?" Silverstar asked. "Well I went to the Moonpool. I don't know why, my paws took me there. I spoke to Starclan,"
"That was the night Spottedpaw was born wasn't it?" Mothwillow asked.
"Yes," Silverstar answered.
Spottedpaw froze listening to every word. She knew she shouldn't but she was curious. The fact that she'd been mentioned made her even more curious to know.
"Starclan gave me a message," Silverstar continued. "I think it was a prophecy,"
Spottedpaw's jaw dropped. Now she had to know!
"A prophecy?" Mothwillow echoed.
"It was Patchtail who spoke it," Silverstar meowed. "He said 'River, Shadow, Wind, Thunder, all shall fall in the spotted cat's demise.',"
"And you think this spotted cat is Spottedpaw don't you," Mothwillow meowed.
"Yes," Silverstar admitted. "It makes sense. The prophecy was told to me on the day Spottedpaw was kitted. Spottedpaw is a spotted cat. It has to be her,"
A PROPHECY ABOUT ME?!?!?! Spottedpaw thought. She was shocked, awed and excited all at once. She didn't listen to what Mothwillow said next. Instead Spottedpaw retreated back into the apprentices den. *This is awesome!*

Chapter 9

Spottedpaw dragged her catches back to camp. Since she'd found out about the prophecy she'd been in a good mood. She'd caught more then usual too. Robinflight nodded approvingly.
"Once we get those back to camp we'll do some battle training," the black she-cat decided. "After the battle with Shadowclan we will need to keep ourselves strong and ready for an attack,"
Spottedpaw nodded excitedly. She raced into the stone hollow dropping her catches on the fresh-kill pile. Robinflight snorted at her enthusiasm and lead her out of camp. They headed to a clearing.
"Ready Spottedpaw?" Robinflight asked.
Spottedpaw nodded. Robinflight tensed suddenly. She leapt at Spottedpaw. The young apprentice reared up trying to catch her mid leap. Robinflight slammed her paws into Spottedpaw's belly. Spottedpaw fell winded and hissed in annoyance.
"Always protect yourself there," Robinflight advised. "It's your most vulnerable spot. Rogues and even Shadowclan cats would have no trouble slashing you there,"
Spottedpaw's eyes widened. Robinflight nodded grimly.
"Let's try again," her mentor meowed.
Spottedpaw leapt first this time twisting in mid air to land a blow on Robinflight. Robinflight knocked her down. Spottedpaw remembering Robinfliht's words didn't waste a moment, she pushed off a tree root slamming into Robinflight and jumping on her back. Robinflight rolled over trying to crush her. Spottedpaw rolled out of the way then pinned Robinflight down placing a paw on her exposed belly.
"Ha!" Spottedpaw cried triumphantly. "I win!"
Robinflight smiled then without warning she kicked Spottedpaw hard with her hind paws and threw her off. Spottedpaw cried out in surprise.
"Try not to be so arrogant," Robinflight told her. "But you will be a good fighter someday,"

Chapter 10

Spottedpaw sat in camp eating with Leaf. She'd been training as Robinflight's apprentice for three moons now. Lionkit, Sandkit and Mistykit were now three moons old. They raced around camp jumping on each other.
"I'm bored," Spottedpaw meowed. "I want to fight Shadowclan or something,"
"Why?" Leaf asked.
Spottedpaw snorted. "Like you don't want to claw their ears off,"
Leaf laughed. "Okay yeah I do. They are a pain in the tail,"
Spottedpaw smirked. "Not as much as Adderfang,"
"I heard that!" Adderfang growled.
Spottedpaw stick out her tongue as the angry warrior stormed off.
"I can't wait until I'm a warrior!" Spottedpaw meowed. "I'll be the best warrior Thunderclan's ever seen! Better then Firestar!"
"Woah!" Sandkit squealed. "So you're gonna be awesome!"
"She's just tricking silly," Mistykit meowed.
"I'm serious," Spottedpaw told the kits. "Just you wait!"
Spottedpaw saw Mothwillow watching her. *Now you too? You've been looking at me just like Silverstar does since she told you about the prophecy.* For the first time Spottedpaw actually thought about the words of the prophecy. *River, Shadow, Wind, Thunder, all shall fall in the spotted cat's demise.* Spottedpaw frowned. *Demise? If the spotted cat is me then...* Spottedpaw froze. *Am I going to die?!*

Chapter 11

Spottedpaw lay in her nest confused and frightened. She hadn't ever felt terror like this before. She shook her head angrily. *Don't be stupid! Why would there be a prophecy about me if something bad is going to happen?!* Spottedpaw sighed. *But what if it isn't about me? Robinflight is a spotted cat too.* Spottedpaw soon fell asleep.
Spottedpaw found herself standing in a wide clearing. Stars lit up the trees and the grass. Spottedpaw felt a sense of foreboding, like she wasn't meant to be there.
"Psst!" Someone whispered.
Spottedpaw looked around. A small tabby she-cat was beckoning to her from the bushes. Her fur was starlit and her eyes shone like the moon.
"Over here!" The tabby whispered.
Spottedpaw ran over and hid with the small cat.
"Where am I?" Spottedpaw asked. "Who are you?"
"Starclan," the small cat whispered. "That's where you are I mean. My name is Pouncepaw,"
"Why'd you bring me here?" Spottedpaw asked.
"Shhh!" Pouncepaw whispered. She pointed with her tail to the clearing. "Watch!"
Spottedpaw crouched lower and watched. She spotted Mothwillow and two cats she'd never seen before. One was a black and white Tom. The other was a speckled brown she-cat.
"Patchtail!" Mothwillow purred touching noses with the black and white Tom.
"Patchtail was Mothwillow's mentor," Pouncepaw whispered.
Spottedpaw nodded continuing to watch.
"Lilyclaw!" Mothwillow faced the speckled brown she-cat. "You look so young and strong!"
"Who's she?" Spottedpaw asked quietly.
"She was Thunderclan's deputy when Mothwillow was born," Pouncepaw explained. "She took care of Mothwillow after her Mother died,"
Spottedpaw narrowed her eyes at the tabby cat. "How do you know all this?"

"I'll tell you later," Pouncepaw meowed. "Just watch!"
Spottedpaw obeyed.
"Spottedpaw is the cat from the prophecy right?" Mothwillow asked.
Neither cats answered.
"If she fails will we die?" Mothwillow asked. "The prophecy says that if the spotted cat fails all the clans will fall. It's so vague though. What can't she fail? Why will the clans die?"
"That's for you to decide," Lilyclaw responded.
For the first time Mothwillow looked angry.
"Why are you so vague! You're supposed to help me!" Mothwillow snarled. Then she sighed. "Patchtail I can't do this without you,"
"Never doubt yourself Mothwillow," Patchtail meowed. "I wish I could help you but it is not my business to interfere with the clans. You will know what it means in time,"
Spottedpaw watched as most swirled around the three cats and they disappeared. Spottedpaw turned to Pouncepaw.
"Why'd you make me watch them?" Spottedpaw asked annoyed.
Pouncepaw looked offended at her tone. "I'm sorry I just..."
"Just what?" Spottedpaw asked angrily.
"I want to be helpful," Pouncepaw whispered.
Spottedpaw tilted her head in confusion. "What do you mean?"
"I died an apprentice," Pouncepaw meowed. "All I ever wanted to do was make my clanmates happy. I tried everything but I always messed up. *Always.* I never did anything right. That's why I want to help you. To be useful and to help save the clans. If what they were saying is true then the clans are in danger. If the best I can do is help you then that's what I'll do!"
Spottedpaw felt sorry for the tabby cat. She nodded. "Okay. With you here in Starclan helping me then we can do it!" Spottedpaw frowned. "How'd you know all that stuff about Mothwillow and those Starclan cats?"
Pouncepaw blinked. "Cause I'm Silverstar's littermate. Us and Mothwillow were denmates as kits. Mothwillow was my friend," Pouncepaw sighed. "She probably doesn't care anymore. I'll always be an apprentice. She's a medicine cat,"
Spottedpaw felt sorry for Pouncepaw. Before she could reply Spottedpaw woke up.

Chapter 12

Spottedpaw walked through the forest with Mothwillow. *Great. I have to help her pick herbs.* Then she remembered last night. *I should mention Pouncepaw. I don't know why but I feel like I should.*
"Mothwillow," Spottedpaw meowed.
"Yes?" Mothwillow asked.
"Who was your mentor?" Spottedpaw asked casually.
Mothwillow stopped. "Why are you asking me this?"
"The Elders said he was a great medicine cat," Spottedlaw answered hurriedly.
Mothwillow sighed. "He was. His name was Patchtail. He really was a great mentor,"
"They said that you were denmates with Silverstar," Spottedpaw meowed.
"I was," Mothwillow purred. "Silverstar Pouncepaw and I did everything together,"
"Pouncepaw?" Spottedpaw echoed.
She mentioned Pouncepaw! She must care! Pouncepaw are you watching from Starclan?
"She was Silverstar's littermate," Mothwillow explained sadly.
"What happened to her?"
Mothwillow closed her eyes. "A band of foxes attacked the clan. Everyone ran away, there was so many. Pouncepaw died trying to defend the camp,"
She just wanted to save her clanmates. Poor Pouncepaw. Mothwillow kept walking.
"Let's go," she ordered.

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Spottedpaw groomed her fur thinking of Pouncepaw. She remembered when she was a kit when Poppyflower had first told her of Starclan and medicine cats.
"*Starclan likes to confuse cats with their vague prophecies,"* Poppyflower had said.
Then why is Pouncepaw helping me? Was she telling me the truth or

does she have some kind of hidden motive? Spottedpaw pushed the thoughts from her head. *I'll go hunt. That'll make me feel better.*

Chapter 13

Spottedpaw stood with her muscles tensed. Leaf stood across from her waiting. Pebbletail and her three kits sat watching. They'd insisted and watching Spottedpaw practice her battle training. Leaf had volunteered to help. Spottedpaw made the first move. She ran at Leaf. The orange and white she-cat was ready though. She reared up ready. Spottedpaw leapt for Leaf's belly remembering what Robinfight had taught her. Leaf slammed her paws into Spottedpaw's back then planted them on Spottedpaw's tail firmly. The kits squealed with excitement.
"Go Leaf!" Sandkit and Mistykit squealed.
"No way go Spottedpaw!" Lionkit yowled.
Encouraged by Lionkit's cheering Spottedpaw twisted around and threw Leaf off with her hind paws. It hurt her tail but Leaf was unbalanced. Spottedpaw gave her no chance to rest, she swiped at Leaf with her claws sheathed battering her with blows. With no more warning then a flick of her tail Leaf retaliated by knocking Spottedpaw over and pinning her down. Spottedpaw pretended to give up hoping Leaf would weaken her grip but Leaf was not fooled.
"I win," Leaf purred.
Spottedpaw stuck out her tongue. Leaf let her go and Spottedpaw sat up.
"Yay!" Sandkit and Mistykit cheered.
"Awww," Lionkit wailed.
Spottedpaw's ears flattened. *Sorry Lionkit.*

Chapter 14

When Spottedpaw woke she could feel tension in the air. She left the apprentices den to see Silverstar, Mothwillow, Foxfur and Poppyflower talking quietly. Foxfur looked furious. Spottedpaw flattened her ears. She knew they were talking about her. Poppyflower looked shocked. Mothwillow look startled. Silverstar looked angrier then Foxfur. Mothwillow spotted her and beckoned her over. Foxfur was shaking with fury.
"Yeah?" Spottedpaw asked.
It was Silverstar who answered. "Spottedpaw, Mothwillow and I have spoken to Starclan and have found out you are very dangerous. Therefore we think it's best if you leave Thunderclan,"
Spottedpaw froze. "You can't do that!"
"See?" Foxfur snarled. "She doesn't want to! You can't just kick my kit from the clan Silverstar!"
"I can and I will!" Silverstar snarled. She faced Spottedpaw eyes flashing. "You are no longer welcome here,"
Mothwillow's fur stood on end. "Silverstar don't. Spottedpaw c-"
"Silence!" Silverstar snarled.
"You can't do this!" Poppyflower screeched.
"This is Starclan's decision not mine," Silverstar responded.
"Starclan would never agree to this!" Foxfur spat.
Frozen in terror Spottedpaw barely spotted the brown tip of a tail. She slipped away unnoticed by the arguing. There she found Pouncepaw.
"What are you doing?" Spottedpaw hissed angrily.
"You have to go to Skyclan!" Pouncepaw whispered adamantly. "I will lead you! You have to go I just know it,"
Spottedpaw's tail dropped. "It's not like Silverstar wants me anyway,"

Chapter 15

Three days had passed since Spottedpaw had left Thunderclan. She knew the clan would argue against Silverstar kicking her out but for some reason her heart wanted her to leave. *Pouncepaw hasn't visited my dreams once so I must be going the right way.* Spottedpaw continued on hunting wherever she could. She passed Thunderpath after Thunderpath. *What's Skyclan?* Spottedpaw shrugged. *Pouncepaw didn't tell me but I guess I'll find out when I get there.* As Spottedpaw continued on a ginger tabby cat appeared suddenly.
"Hi," the strange cat meowed.
"Hi," Spottedpaw responded. *Why am I talking to this cat?! She's a kittypet!*
"What are you doing out here?" The ginger cat asked.
Spottedpaw bared her teeth. "Go away or I'll rip your pelt off,"
The ginger car squealed and ran off surprised at her rage.
Spottedpaw felt bad but after Silverstar kicked her out she didn't care anymore. Spottedpaw kept going passing Twoleg dens and hissing at any cat she saw. They all kept well away.

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After half a moon of travelling Spottedpaw gave up. Her pelt was ragged and dirty, she couldn't be bothered to groom it. *What's the point? I'm just a rogue now.* Spottedpaw growled to herself. She spotted a river and waded in hating the water but glad as the dirt came off her pelt. She felt cleaner like she had in camp. A pang of sadness washed over her. *Why did Silverstar kick me out? Was she that afraid of the prophecy?*

Chapter 16

Spottedpaw had fallen asleep. Mist swirled around her. She spotted Pouncepaw. The Starclan cat looked excited but Spottedpaw just hissed furiously.
"Leave me alone!" Spottedpaw snarled.
Pouncepaw flattened her ears. "Spottedpaw what's wrong?"
"I said leave me alone!" Spottedpaw snapped.
"But I still have to help with the-"
"I don't care about the prophecy!" Spottedpaw screeched. "It got me kicked out of my own clan! Now I'm a rogue! I don't need your help!"
"Yes you do!" Pouncepaw insisted. "You're so close to Skyclan!"
"I don't care!" Spottedpaw spat. "I don't want anything more to do with you or Starclan! It's all your fault I've been kicked out of Thunderclan,"
Pouncepaw ran away a pained expression on her face. Then Spottedpaw woke up.

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Stupid mouse-brain! I hate her! I hate Starclan! They got me kicked out of Thunderclan with their stupid prophecy! Spottedpaw hissed in fury. She didn't care anymore. She didn't Starclan. She wouldn't find Skyclan. If everyone was against her then she'd look after no one but herself.

Chapter 17

It had been four moons since Spottedpaw had left Thunderclan. She passed a river and kept walking. She was tired and full and miserable. She was always miserable now. Spottedpaw sniffed the air searching for prey then froze. Cat sent filled her nostrils. It was almost like a scent marker. Like a border. Ignoring it she crossed over. Suddenly grey fur flashed at the edge of her vision. She was pinned down. Spottedpaw furiously threw off her attacker. Her attacker was smaller with neat grey fur. It was a grey Tom. The Tom lounged at her. Spottedpaw threw him off landing blow after blow and remembering Robinflight's lessons. Even after four moons she was a skilled fighter and soon she'd pinned the strange cat down. The strange cat looked curious and not afraid.
"You fight like a clan cat," the strange Tom meowed.
Spottedpaw let him go but kept her muscles tensed.
"Greypaw!" Someone called.
A mottled ginger Tom appeared suddenly.
"Greypaw! Are you alright?" The ginger Tom asked snarling at Spottedpaw.
"I'm fine Shinestep," Greypaw answered. "This cat fights like a clan cat,"
"Well I'm not a clan cat anymore," Spottedpaw muttered.
"Anymore?" A tortoiseshell Tom appeared from the trees.
"Shadestar!" Shinestep meowed.
"I was from Thunderclan," Spottedpaw explained. "Is this Skyclan?"
Shadestar nodded. "Why are you here?"
"I didn't... fit in with my clanmates anymore," Spottedpaw lied.
Shadestar tilted his head. "You're strong. Do you want to be a Skyclan cat?"
Spottedpaw blinked in surprise. "What?"
Shinestep and Greypaw looked equally surprised.
"You can be a warrior but we'll have someone teach you the ways of a Skyclan cat anyway," Shadestar meowed. "What do you say?"
Spottedpaw blinked. "Okay,"
"Follow me," Shadestar ordered.
Spottedpaw, Shinestep and Greypaw followed.

Authors Note

Thanks for reading this book! Please check out the next one Warriors Shadows Foretold #2 Starclan's Wrath